GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:78
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2009
KEROSENE MARKER SYSTEM
Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar;Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerosene Marker System introduced by the Oil Marketing Companies has failed to be a fool-proof method to detect kerosene mixed in petrol or diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has been entrusted to any independent investigative agency for inquiry into the alleged irregularities in awarding contract for supplying the Marker;

(d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry and the action taken/proposed to be taken against the persons found responsible for the lapses; and

(e) the further action taken in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS(SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 78 ASKED BY SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL AND SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.02.2009 REGARDING KEROSENE MARKER SYSTEM:

(a) & (b): The marker system was implemented by doping of all Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) with marker from October 2006 to 31st December 2008. During the period when the marker system was in vogue with legislation in place the marker system was more successful in detecting adulteration of Motor Spirit (MS)/High Speed Diesel (HSD) with SKO than the traditional method.

In the recent past, tests conducted by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in their labs have shown that marker supplied by M/s Authentix can be laundered with certain chemicals in lab conditions. The marker supplied by M/s Authentix was discontinued from 31st December, 2008.The OMCs are in the process of calling for a Global Expression of Interest for another marker which meets the specifications.

(c) to (e): Independent agencies are inquiring into the matter. No report has been received from them so far.